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Top Secret Communication No. 18 from 8th Submarine Squadron Commander to the Ministry of the Navy dated 30 July 1944 (Excerpt from file entitled Headquarters No. 5. Naval Air Materials Omitted. Outline of Meritorious Records in the Greater East Asia War, 1 Dec 1943 - 31 May 1944)

To Minister of the Navy:

Reported on the 30th July, by Rear-Admiral ICHIOKA Hisashi, the Commander of the 8th Submarine Squadron; at the Headquarters of the 8th Submarine Squadron.

/The Seal of the Commander of the 8th Submarine Squadron/

/Personal Secret/

/ Naval Secret/

/ The 8th Submarine Squadron Secret No. 18/

/Received on Aug. 14 1944/

The Periodical Report on Outlined Meritorious Deeds of the Great Eastern Asia War (From Dec 1 1943 to May 31 1944)

Demarcation

Headquarters of the 8th Submarine Squadron

Grades of Meritorious Service: 2nd Grade  
 Period: From Dec 1 1943 to May 31 1944

Operational Actions, Services related to War and others

Descriptions

(1) From the last month on, this squadron continued to stay at the base of PENANG as the Southwestern Area Submarine Squadron. With the submarines under my command, squadron prevented enemy's reinforcement for counter-attack from Indian Ocean and crushed its tactical attempt to attack vessels; cooperated with and supported the Army in preventing enemy's reinforcement from the sea towards INDIA-BURMA border; cooperated successfully in transporting spies and men on special missions who were stealing in to feel out enemy's situation in INDIA reconnoitered and ravaged enemy's transportation route from AUSTRALIA and the eastern coast of AFRICA to the ADEN Bay, Arabian Coast, INDIA and the Bay of BENGAL; greatly contributed to judgment of enemy's conditions in the western area by carrying out reconnaissance and patrol on all strategic points under joint operation with "HO" Reconnaissance Planes Group.

(1) The 14th Submarine Division was de-activated on Dec. 13th and Sub. "I" No. 27 and Sub. "I" No. 37 were attached to the Squadron.

(2) The Sub "Ro" No. 112 (on Dec. 15) the Sub "Ro" No. 113 (on Dec. 31) and the Sub "Ro" No. 114 (on Feb 20) were newly added to the 30th Submarine Division as reinforcements. The Sub "Ro" No. 112 which had been operating in the ARAFURA Sea area north of Australia and the Sub "Ro" No. 113 and 114 which had been under the command of the Commander in Chief of the Convoy Escort were released on March 25th.

The Sub "I", No. 166 and "I" No. 165 were attached to the Squadron. The Sub "I" No. 162 was transferred to the KURE Submarine Squadron, and others were transferred to the 51st Submarine Division upon being separated from this Squadron.

Operational Actions, Services related to  
War and others

(2) A part of the submarines under my command (Sub "I" No. 8, Sub "I" No. 29, Sub "I" No. 52, and Sub "Ro" No. 501) were despatched to the Atlantic Ocean and European waters on special duty and engage in joint operation for a long period to keep on liaison between Japan and Germany.

(3) My advice and guidance were given for the maintenance and supply as well as for training of crews so that submarine operation could successfully be carried out to bring about brilliant war results.

(4) For the German submarines which had hastily been dispatched for Japanese-German joint submarine operations in Indian Ocean, sufficient cooperation was given in liaison as well as in such preparation as maintenance and supply, thus German submarines were enabled to show their efficiency in the Japanese-German joint operation advantageously, resulting in a great contribution to the success of the strategic plan for the destruction of transportation in the Indian Ocean Area. The material battle-results during this period are as follows:

Sunk: Merchant ships 20 (190,000 tons)  
Sailing Vessels 8 (1,200 tons)  
Damaged: One Merchant ship of large size.  
Prisoners: 9 enemy crew, besides an English Captain.

Descriptions

(3) The Sub "I" No. 29 and "I" No. 528 sailed out from SINGAPORE on December 16th and April 23rd, respectively, and are now operating in the Atlantic Ocean and European waters on special duty shown in Imperial Headquarters Navy Section Instructions Nos. 273 & 322.

(4) The Sub "I" No. 10 was transferred to the 6th Fleet on Jan. 1st, and was attached to the advance force.

(5) The Sub "I" No. 8, having accomplished on Dec 20th the special duty shown in Imperial Headquarters Navy Section Instruction No. 205, returned from Europe; it left KURE on Feb. 21st and is now operating in this area.

(6) During this period:

1. The Sub "I" No. 34, on the way to PENANG on a special mission, had a conflict with the enemy on Nov. 13th in the MALACCA Strait, in which all the crew except 13 survivors were killed and the ship was withdrawn from this Squadron on Feb. 5th.

2. The Sub "Ro" No. 110 and the Sub "I" No. 27 sailed out from PENANG, on Feb. 2 and Feb. 4, respectively, and were engaged in strategic operation for destruction of communications in the BENGAL Bay and the Indian Ocean. During this period they fought the enemy and both the Sub "Ro" No. 110 (on Mar. 15) and the Sub "I" No. 27 (on May 15) are presumed to have been sunk, losing all their crew.

Page 127:- The Opinion of Chief (Commander) under whose command the Squadron is:



C E R T I F I C A T EStatement of Source and Authenticity

I, I. KAWAI hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Director of Personnel Division, Second Demobilization Bureau and that as such official I had custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 163 sheets, dated 15 July 1944, and described as follows: Bound file entitled "Headquarters, No. 5 (Naval Air Materials Omitted) Outline of Meritorious Records in the Greater East Asia War, 1 December 1943 - 31 May, 1944". I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it was part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Personnel Bureau, Navy Ministry, Japanese Government.

Signed at Tokyo on this14th day of October, 1947/sgd/ I. KAWAI  
Signature of OfficialWitness: I. Yokoyama /sgd/Director of Personnel  
Division, S.D.B.  
Official CapacityStatement of Official Procurement

I, J. G. LAMBERT hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this14th day of Oct. 1947/sgd/ J. G. Lambert  
NAMEWitness: Johnson F. Munroe /sgd/Investigator, IPS  
Official Capacity